

DATE

LaDonna Englerth
Administrator
East Carroll Parish Hospital
338 No. Hood Street
Lake Providence, Louisiana 71254

Re: **Louisiana Board of Ethics**
Docket No. 2021-343

Dear Ms. Englerth,

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its meeting on June 4, 2021, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics (“Code”) would prohibit the East Carroll Parish Hospital from hiring Lisa Clement Walters as Project Manager for a future Federally Qualified Health Center.

FACTS PROVIDED

The East Carroll Parish Police Jury created the East Carroll Parish Hospital Service District (“District”), which operates the East Carroll Parish Hospital. The Police Jury appoints the Board of Commissioners for the District. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana and a component unit of East Carroll Parish. The Police Jury has no authority over the hiring decisions of the District or the day-to-day operations of the District.

The District owns two rural health centers and plans to apply for a Federally Qualified Health Center (“FQCH”). The District has placed an advertisement for a candidate to be hired as Project Manager for the FQCH. The only qualified applicant is Lisa Clement Walters. You stated that Ms. Walters is not a physician and has no medical background.

Randy Walters is the President of the East Carroll Parish Police Jury. Lisa Clement Walters is married to Randy Walters’s brother.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1119B(1) provides that no member of the immediate family of a member of a governing authority or the chief executive of a governmental entity shall be employed by the governmental entity.

La. R.S. 42:1102(13) defines “immediate family” as the term relates to a public servant to include his brothers and their spouses. La. R.S. 42:1102(12) defines “governmental entity”

to mean a political subdivision to which the elected official is elected. La. R.S. 42:1102(11) defines “governmental authority” to mean the body which exercises the legislative functions of a political subdivision.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that Section 1119B(1) would prohibit Lisa Clement Walters from being hired as the Project Manager for the District while her brother-in-law, Randy Walters, serves as a member of the governing authority, the East Carroll Parish Police Jury. Since you stated that Ms. Walters does not have a medical background, the Board did not apply the exception contained in La. R.S. 42:1119B(2)(b)(i).

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. Please note that the Board issues no opinion as to past conduct and that the Board’s expressed opinion is limited to an examination of the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Acts, and the conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (800)842-6630 or (225)219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

David M. Bordelon
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is NOT an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.